

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

**Claim Status**

Claims 1-13 are pending in this application and have been subjected to an election of species for prosecution on the merits.

**Election**

The Examiner has required under 35 U.S.C. §121 election of a single species for prosecution on the merits because, in the Examiner's opinion, as set forth in the Detailed Action, the application contains claims directed to four patentably distinct species of the invention as follows:

Species 1 – Figures 6-14;

Species 2 – Figures 15, 16A, 16B;

Species 3 – Figures 17-22; and

Species 4 – Figures 23-27.

As stated above, Applicants provisionally elect Species 1 for prosecution and identify claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8-12 as being readable thereon.

Should any generic claim be deemed allowable, Applicants respectfully request that all species readable thereon be rejoined to the case.

This election is made with traverse. Applicants respectfully submit that (1) all groups of claims are properly presented in the same application; (2) undue diverse searching should not be required; and (3) all claims should be examined together.

Applicants note that the Examiner identifies merely *four* closely related species, which Applicants submit is not "more than a reasonable number of species" for searching purposes.

**CONCLUSION**

It is respectfully submitted that the election requirement should be withdrawn and an action on the merits for all the pending claims be issued. The pending claims are believed allowable over the art of record.

No fees are believed due in connection with this response and this paper is believed to be timely filed. However, should an extension of time be necessary, such extension is hereby petitioned. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments which may be required for this paper to Deposit Account Number 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5286.

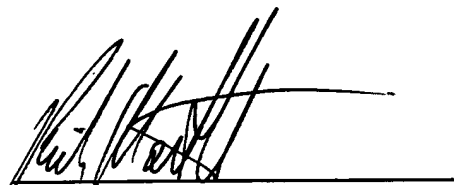
In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: May 3, 2005

By:



Richard Martinelli  
Registration No. 52,003

Mailing address:  
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.  
3 World Financial Center  
New York, New York 10281-2101  
(212) 415-8700 (Telephone)/(212) 415-8701 (Facsimile)